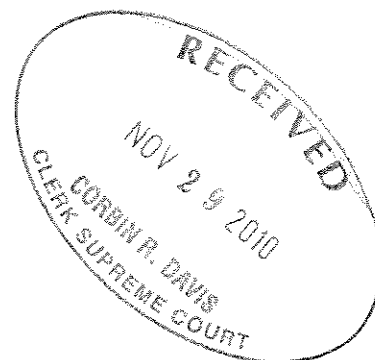




November 22, 2010

School of Law
Office of the Dean

Corbin Davis
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909



Re: ADM File No. 2010-18
Proposed Amendment of Rule 6.1 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct

Dear Clerk Davis,

I am the Dean of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and I am writing in support of Alternative B – the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly proposal as revised by the Supreme Court.

Alternative B is based on the ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 (“ABA Model Rule 6.1”) which provides a nationally recognized and uniform definition of proper pro bono public legal service. The focus on a lawyer’s provision of legal services to those individuals of limited means or to organizations serving those individuals of limited means holds to a long and respected tradition within the legal profession. ABA Model Rule 6.1 provides the legal profession with a best practice standard, a standard upon which a lawyer’s pro bono work can and should be predicated.

As the language of Alternative B mirrors the ABA’s nationally accepted best practice standards for pro bono public service while incorporating the longstanding Michigan pro bono goals as stated in the Michigan Voluntary Pro Bono Standard (1990), I welcome this clarifying language. I believe this language will support and provide guidance to our graduates in satisfying their commitment to planning pro bono work.

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law conducts one of the first, and certainly one of the finest, clinical programs designed to represent the underprivileged. Our Urban Law and Veterans Law Clinics consistently receive national recognition. I believe the language reflected in Alternative B reflects the substance of what we are trying to instill in our students, e.g. a lifelong commitment to pro bono service as an integral part of becoming a lawyer and maintaining the privilege to practice law. The guidance contained in the proposal will be beneficial not only to our graduates, but others in satisfying their pro bono obligations.

For the reasons set forth above, I respectfully request that the Court adopt Alternative B – the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly proposal as revised by the Supreme Court.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd A. Semple".

Lloyd A. Semple

Dean and Professor of Law